

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

June 25, 1937

The meeting convened at two-thirty o'clock, President Holland presiding.

PRESIDENT HOLLAND: The meeting will please come to order.

We are delighted to have with us this afternoon a distinguished former President of this Association who has been absent until today on account of official duties at Cambridge. Professor Eldon R. James, won't you kindly stand? (Applause.)

MR. ELDON R. JAMES (Harvard Law School Library, Cambridge, Mass.): That is easy, Mr. President. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT HOLLAND: It is our good fortune this afternoon, as the first part of our program, to have an address to be delivered by a distinguished pioneer member of this Association, a gentleman who has given generously of his time and efforts on our behalf throughout these years; a gentleman who has contributed notably to the field of law library science and to the education of law librarians. He will deliver an address on the subject of "Odor of Sanctity." I present to you Professor Frederick C. Hicks, of the Yale Law School Library. Professor Hicks. (Applause.)

ODOR OF SANCTITY

FREDERICK C. HICKS

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Things intrinsically of little worth acquire value because of their associations. How often do we treasure an old watch, a pair of spectacles, a gold cup, or a silver spoon because they were worn by Father or Mother, or used by generations of the family in childhood! How often our attics are filled with things with which we cannot bring ourselves to part! We know their history, whose hands have touched them, what needs they have served, and so they are dear to us. They have acquired for us an odor of sanctity.

If we love any book, we love it more because the copy which we have belonged to someone whom we respect. If we are book-lovers we find an added charm in the books which we collect or handle, if there are evidences in them of succession in ownership. This wholly natural feeling is responsible for a phase of book-collecting which relates to "association" copies. The literature of bibliomania is full of references to such books, and when a particular book is itself not only a rare item but also has "association" interest, the brimming cup of the collector seems to overflow. Browsing recently among books on book-collecting, I was struck by the scarcity of references to law books which have acquired an odor of sanctity. Are they so few or so unimportant as to be unworthy of comment—or is this a neglected field of legal bibliography, which law librarians ought to explore? Imagination immediately leaped in search of legal items which one would travel far to see. The Lion of the North, Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, is said to have

carried a copy of Grotius' *De Jure Belli ac Pacis* with him on all of his campaigns, and to have slept with it under his pillow. Doubtless it helped him to classify all of his wars as "just" wars. What became of this copy when he died in the midst of victory at the battle of Lutzen, in 1632? Was there no scrap of the manuscript left when Edward Livingston's *System of Penal Law* was burned in the early morning of November 15, 1824? Where are the books that Blackstone used when, nightly cheered by a glass of wine, he wrote his *Commentaries*?

The single author to whom I could turn for information about "association" copies of law books was the lamented Hampton L. Carson, whose *Pedigrees in the Ownership of Law Books* traces the line of ownership of his own copies of Fitzherbert's *Abridgment*, Plowden's *Commentaries*, and Rolle's *Abridgment*. Somewhat discursively, as was his pleasant habit, he proved that the subject is far from sterile. His whole collection of books illustrative of the history of the Common Law, now the property of the Free Library of Philadelphia, contains some of the books owned by Blackstone, and many others which have unusual individual histories.

I determined to see what my own experience and that of a few friends to whom I might apply, would add to Carson's list. Such an article, I thought, might start law librarians searching their collections and writing to the LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL of their findings, thus opening up more fully a field of enjoyment both for them and for the readers of the Journal. Making no claim that I had completely surveyed the field, or that the article was anything more than suggestive, I could write it with satisfaction.

Quickly it was realized that there are whole collections of law books which have warm sentimental interest. Often libraries are started by the donation of a collection of books or by the purchase of someone's library. These might be described generally as the collections of the founders—of the persons without whose books the respective libraries would not have been begun or would have gotten off to a much less hopeful start. Looked back upon from the present, they seem to have something of the character of heirlooms. You want to preserve them, if they can be identified, and pass them on to your successors, even though they are not scarce or rare books, just because of their "association" value for your library.

Such a collection of books is that which served as the foundation for the Law Library of Congress. The first Library of Congress was destroyed by the British on August 24, 1814. To renew this collection, by act of January 30, 1815, the library of Thomas Jefferson was purchased at a cost of \$23,950. It contained 639 law books, which were kept with the main collection in the Capitol until 1832. By act of July 4, of that year, the librarian was directed to segregate the law books and place them in quarters near the Supreme Court Chambers. Jefferson's law books, which thus served as the nucleus of the law library, are listed in the *Catalogue of the Library of the United States*, published in 1815, which relates only the books purchased from Jefferson. Of the original 639 law books, only 387 survived the fire of 1851. These have been preserved and they are now kept as

part of the Jefferson Library, which is shelved in an air-conditioned vault in the Rare Book Room of the Library.

But even though a library cannot connect its foundation with so notable a person as a former president of the United States, it may still treasure its first books with affection and respect. In the Yale Law Library, belated recognition has recently been given to the three men responsible for the existence of the school, by establishing a Founders' Collection, made up of the books which formed part of their libraries. The three men were Seth P. Staples, Samuel J. Hitchcock and David Daggett. In 1800, Staples bought his first law books for the use of students in his private law school. In 1824, some of these, and others later purchased, became the property of Hitchcock, his colleague and successor, and Judge Daggett, the only one of the three with a national reputation, added books from his own library when he joined Hitchcock as law teacher. After the death of Hitchcock in 1845, a subscription was raised to purchase the books from his estate, and they thus became the property of Yale University, which by that time had formally taken control of the school. Of the original 2,260 volumes purchased in 1845, there could be found and identified in April, 1935, less than 400. Most of them had been continuously in use since about 1830, and some of them for thirty years more. Every book bears the autograph of one or more of the three men, and some of them have been enriched by the artistry, poetic effusions and caustic remarks of successive generations of students. They now have been withdrawn from use, but in their retirement will continue to be a source of inspiration to the school. A recent addition to this collection is a pamphlet on the cover of which is written the words, "Hon. Judge Daggett from his friend J. Kent."

That so few of the original collection now remain is not surprising. It was the custom in the early days of the school to provide students with textbooks. They did not always return them. Other copies were completely worn out, and many were sold or discarded. Some of the latter turn up in unexpected places. For example, it was a pleasure recently to learn that Staples' copy of Burn's *Practical Treatise or Compendium of Marine Insurance*, (London, 1801), is now preserved in the library of the College of William and Mary. It contains not only Staples' autograph, but that of Robert W. Hughes, United States District Judge, and Circuit Court reporter. On the cover is stamped the name of Charles Whitteley, who was registered in the Yale Law School class of 1847. In the youth of libraries, as well as in the youth of individuals, not much thought is given to historical mementoes. But ideas change concerning things of sentimental interest. When we are engrossed with the task merely of operating our libraries, we are forced to be severely practical, selecting and preserving books wholly for use. As we get farther along in library organization, and as we ourselves grow older, we begin to prize those things which formerly were given scant attention. So experience sounds the warning:—"Be careful what you discard!"

I have been speaking of collections which are the nuclei about which libraries grow. Of equal interest are the law collections of famous men presented to libraries already well established. Such a group of books is the Kent Collection in the

Columbia University Law Library. It consists of 749 volumes donated in 1911 by Mr. Edwin C. Kent, great-grandson of James Kent. Writing in 1828, the Chancellor said, "My library, which started from nothing, grew with my growth, and it has now attained upwards of 3,000 volumes; and it is pretty well selected, for there is scarcely a work, authority or document, referred to in the three volumes of my Commentaries, but what has a place in my own library. Next to my wife, my library has been the source of my greatest pleasure and devoted attachment." It has been said, by one whom I have authority to quote without giving credit, that the association of these volumes with the first professor of law of Columbia University, and with America's foremost legal classic, gives them special value to the Columbia Law School. But, for another reason, they are a priceless possession. They are filled with annotations in his own hand—not only criticisms and observations on the contents of the books, on the authors of them, and on personages and events mentioned in them—but notes of intimate details of his own professional and family life. It has been truly said of him that he studied pen-in-hand. He made his books his confidants. On the occasion of the Kent Celebration in Columbia University, June 4, 1923, money was raised to rebind the collection in handsome pigskin, and bookcases in which permanently to exhibit them were provided by student subscriptions.

Of similar interest, are the law books of the late Mr. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, about 2,000 in number, bequeathed by him in 1935, with the rest of his books, to the Library of Congress. Many of them, says Mr. Vance, "bear the autographs of the Justice's ancestors. Many of them carry marginalia and memorabilia in the writing of the late Justice himself, while others contain dedicatory messages of noted jurists from all parts of the world. Justice Holmes had the habit of filing letters from publishers and authors between the covers of their works. . . . About 100 books [are] of peculiar value as judged by date of printing, autographs, his "Notes on Reading this Volume," etc. An impressive number of these valuable books contain autographs of Charles Jackson, maternal grandfather of the Justice, and himself at one time a member of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court."

One other example only of this type of association collection must suffice. I refer to the library of the late Nathaniel A. Moak, which was presented to the Cornell University Law School in 1893. The nucleus of the Cornell Law Library was the Merrett King library of 4,000 volumes, acquired in 1886, but the Moak collection was what lifted it to a place of prominence. Mr. Moak, a lawyer of Albany, New York, was an inveterate law book-collector, and he used his books in the extensive editorial work that he carried on. You are all familiar with Moak's English Reports, and with other works which he edited. When he died, his library contained 12,415 volumes. They now serve not only as a memorial to Judge Douglas Boardman, first dean of the school, in whose memory they were presented by his widow and daughter, but also to the scholarship and industry of Moak. He was, wrote Judge Finch (*CORNELL LAW QUARTERLY*, 4:134), "brusque and abrupt and even sometimes rough in speech; with a voice metallic and resonant and scorn-

ing all modulations; hating what was false and mean with a temper that had some dynamite in it; with a frame heavy and solid and almost massive in its structure; a born fighter at the bar and fearless of all adversaries; one would hardly have picked him out as the gentle student, dearly loving his books. And yet that he surely was. . . . Year by year the fruit of his industry and energy, in volume after volume, in choice editions and rare selections, crept along the shelves of his office and those of his library. . . . His books were his friends. . . . He loved them dearly and guarded them well."

Turning now from groups of association copies, to individual items, a subject of absorbing interest is open to us. There is nothing else so impregnated with the personality of its first owner as is a holographic manuscript. It is not only something which belonged to him, but something which he directly created. Take, for example, the account books of lawyers. If you have patience and eyesight with which to study them, you find the legal life of the old attorney written there. And more than that, something of the life of his time also. The possibilities are illustrated by Dr. Mabel Seymour's *Lawyer of Kent*, which is based upon her study of the account books of Barzillai Slosson for the years 1794 to 1812, now in the Yale Law Library. (See *Yale Law Library Publications*. No. 2.)

Another class of legal association manuscripts is the notebooks of law students. Perhaps the most interesting of these is the series of such books written by students in the Litchfield Law School. Miss Elizabeth Forgeus has described some of them in the pages of the *LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL*. Many famous men studied in the school. Unfortunately, the notebooks of the most famous have not been discovered. When they are found, as some of them surely will be, what a prize for the collector will be the notebooks of Aaron Burr, John C. Calhoun, United States Supreme Court Justice Henry Baldwin, Horace Mann, the educator, and many other national figures who graduated from the school. Not even the manuscripts of books subsequently published have the interest of such as these. For these notebooks not only are unique, as all original manuscripts are, but the exact content of them is nowhere else available.

Almost like manuscripts in their sentimental interest are the briefs prepared by great lawyers. They are usually printed but not published. I can never without a mental obeisance look at the bookcase in the New York Law Institute Library, which contains the one hundred volumes of the appeal papers of Charles O'Connor. They are labelled "My Own Cases" and "My Opinions." They were bequeathed to the Institute by the will of O'Connor, together with the silver pitcher and vase that had been presented to him by ladies and lawyers of the city of New York at the conclusion of the Forrest divorce case, in 1852.

Some books are interesting because they have been associated with an important event or have passed through an unusual experience. I have always had a desire to possess a copy of a book which had been banned by the censors and been rescued from a bonfire of books built by the public hangman. There is a tradition that some copies of Cowell's *Interpreter* suffered that fate. At least it is true that the book was condemned by a Proclamation of James I, the buying or

reading of it was prohibited, and all and sundry were commanded to turn in their copies to the King's agents; but the books "were out, and the proclamation could not call them in, but only served to make them more taken notice of." (Roger Coke's *Direction*, 1696, Bk. 1, p. 30-31.)

A law book which is associated with Mr. Justice Story and which passively took part in the war of 1812, now peacefully rests on the shelves of the Yale Law Library. It is the eleven-volume, parchment-bound, *Opera Omnia* (Naples, 1759) of Heineccius. On the flyleaf of the first volume, some unknown commentator has written the following: "These volumes were ordered by J. Story from Italy—on their passage to the U. S., they were captured by the British frigate *Guerriere* afterwards recaptured in the memorable engagement with the American frigate *Constitution* commanded by Capt. Hull—19 of August, 1812—By the politeness of Capt. Hull, I received them on his victorious return to the U. S."

Brief and desultory as has been my search for individual copies of law books that have been owned by famous persons, already more instances have been found than can possibly be used in a short article. In fact the subject grows as one pursues it, so that it could well some day be developed into a book. I give therefore only a few illustrations of those which have come to light.

While this article was being written, there was presented to the Yale Law Library a copy of the first edition of Bracton's *De Legibus*, 1569, which has unusual association interest. The earliest mark of ownership is the bookplate of Henry Bankes, grandson of Sir John Bankes (1589-1644) whose Corfe castle in Dorset was besieged by parliamentary forces in 1645-46, at which time all of his books were taken. This book may have been among the spoils of that siege. Henry Bankes died in 1776. John Saunders Hayward, of Merton College, Oxford, Barrister of the Inner Temple, 1777, was another owner, as indicated by his autograph. Later, it was the property of Mr. Justice Willes, at whose death it was purchased by Sir Frederick Pollock. Under Sir Frederick's bookplate, he wrote "Dec. 10, 1872. This was the late Mr. Justice Willes' copy: bought by me at the sale of his books." On the opposite flyleaf is written "A. L. Goodhart from F. P. *lampado trado*, 1936" (hand on the torch). This gift to Mr. Goodhart, a graduate of Yale University, and now Professor of Jurisprudence at Oxford, was accompanied by the suggestion that he keep it as long as he wished, and then pass it on to the Yale Law School. This was graciously done on April 15, 1937.

Perkins' *Profitable Book* is the sort of volume which people like to own and autograph. We have at Yale a copy of the 1614 edition which contains the bookplate and the signature of Theodore L. De Vinne, of printing fame. On February 10, 1910, he gave it to Van Vechten Veeder. In the copy was laid a clipping from a bookseller's catalogue, which describes a copy of a 1597 Perkins, and says that, "it is quite possible that Shakespeare at one time owned this copy, as it is from the collection of the late J. Wrenford: Med: Temple, the collector of rare Shakespeariana, whose signature is preserved in the work."

We get acquainted with interesting characters sometimes through their signatures in law books. Yale Law Library has the Kentucky laws for the session

beginning Dec. 5, 1814, which belonged to Ben Hardin. He was a Kentucky lawyer and member of Congress of whom John Randolph said, "Hardin is like a kitchen knife whetted on a brick, he cuts roughly but cuts deep." It would be wonderful if the copy of Coke *Upon Littleton*, described by William H. Winters in his annual report for 1915-1916, as librarian of the New York Law Institute, ever were found. On the flyleaf of this copy Patrick Henry is supposed to have written the first draft of his famous Five Resolutions, which he says brought on the American Revolution. On a printed copy of these Resolutions, sold on December 20, 1912, for \$1,400, Henry had written the following, "Finding the men of weight averse to Opposition, and the commencement of the Tax at hand and that no person was likely to step forth—I determined to venture alone, unadvised and unassisted—on a blank leaf of an old law book wrote the within." He gave the book to Thomas Jefferson, but no further trace has been found of it. Governor Pennypacker had a copy of volume two of the work which may have been the companion to the precious lost volume.

Winters tells also in his report for 1910, that he presented to the Library of the Department of State in Washington a copy of Indiana *Special Acts*, December Session, 1823, which he calls the "rarest of all sessional law books." This copy came from the library of General Arthur St. Clair, "once President of the Continental Congress and the first Governor of the newly formed North Western Territory, and whose defeat in the Indian Campaign of 1791 aroused Washington to the greatest excitement and wrath."

Despite the fact that Thomas Jefferson's law library was purchased by the United States in 1815, there are copies of his books elsewhere. The Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California, has his copy of the 1776 *Journal of the Virginia House of Delegates*; and there was recently offered for sale his copy of Kerr's *Exposition of the Criminal Law of the Territory of Orleans*, 1806. The price asked was \$200. The dealer explains that Jefferson had his own method of indicating ownership. "It was his custom to affix a 'T' before the printer's signature mark 'T' [J], and a 'J' after the signature mark 'T'."

The Yale Law Library has three volumes of English Reports by Vernon (1726-28), Hobart (1724) and Strange (1755), which bear the autograph of John Marshall. According to Beveridge's *Life of Marshall*, volume 1, p. 184-186, other of his law books formerly were in the possession of a great-grandson of Marshall, Judge J. K. M. Norton, of Alexandria, Virginia. They included two copies of Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Kames' *Principles of Equity*, Montesquieu's *Spirit of Laws*, and Beawes' *Lex Mercatoria Rediviva*. Marshall's father, Thomas, Clerk of Dunmore County, Virginia, subscribed for the 1772 edition of Blackstone. He kept these volumes in his own possession until 1796, when they passed to the son, John, who already, in 1785, had bought another copy. The first copy then went into the possession of John's brother, James, and after that, volume 4 only, with the appendix volume, came to Judge Norton, who gave them to the College of William and Mary, where they now are. Beveridge (V. 1, p. 56) says that the reading of Blackstone had a profound influence on Marshall's mind. "The youthful

backwoodsman read Blackstone with delight." His father "had bought the book for John's use as much as or more than for his own information. Marshall's parents, with a sharp eye on the calling that then brought greatest honor and profit, had determined that their eldest son should be a lawyer."

A subject of fascinating interest is the law books used by Abraham Lincoln. *The Revised Statutes of Indiana*, 1824, according to William H. Winters (Annual Report, 1910, p. 18), is the "earliest surviving book relic of Lincoln's youth." After his first encounter with the law when he was charged with unlicensed ferrying, he began to read it at the home of David Turnham. The latter wrote to William H. Herndon, in a letter dated October 12, 1865, that "when Abe and I were associates, he would come to my house and sit and read it. It was the first law book he ever saw." "Turnham," says William H. Townsend (*Lincoln the Litigant*, p. 40), "was a constable at that time and, as an officer of the law, was required to keep his statutes at hand for ready reference. And since the book could not be borrowed, Lincoln came to the Turnham home day after day until he had thoroughly absorbed its contents. Here he read for the first time not only the imperishable declaration that 'all men are created equal,' but also the Constitution of the United States, the Act of Virginia of 1783, by which the territory 'northwestward of the river Ohio' was conveyed to the United States, and the Ordinance of 1787, governing this territory, which contained the famous sixth article: 'There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory.'" The first owner of the book, after Turnham, was William H. Herndon, who tells the story of how it came into his possession: "I was in Spencer County, Indiana, Lincoln's old home, gathering up the facts of young Abraham's life. I then and there became acquainted with David Turnham, merchant, and man of integrity, a playmate, schoolfellow, associate, and firm friend of Mr. Lincoln, who gave me, . . . a good history of young Lincoln. . . . At the conclusion of our business, he asked me if I would like to have some relic of Lincoln, and [when] I said I should like to have such relic very much, he then gave me this book, stating to me that it was the first law book that Lincoln ever read." The concluding sentence of this inscription on a sheet of paper pasted on the front inside cover of the book, shows that he presented it to the Lincoln Memorial Collection of Chicago, May 18, 1886. When this collection was sold in Philadelphia, December 5, 1894, William H. Winters purchased it. It remained in his hands until the disposal of his library at auction, March 8, 1923, after his death. The purchaser was William H. Townsend, of Lexington, Kentucky.

This book was never owned by Lincoln. Where are the law books that he did own, either individually or with his partners? Two hundred is about the limit of the number of volumes that were in the law offices occupied by Lincoln, and some of these were not strictly law books. They became pretty well scattered. F. T. Hill, in his *Lincoln the Lawyer* (p. 292) listed the whereabouts of some of them, in 1912. In the Lambert collection, he says, were the *Illinois Conveyancer*, and Angell on *Limitations*. In the Vanuxem-Potter collection were Chitty's *Pleading and Parties to Actions*, Stephen's *Commentaries on the Laws of England*,

volume one of Greenleaf on *Evidence*, the *Revised Statutes of Illinois*, 1844, Kent's *Commentaries*, Smith's *Landlord and Tenant*, Story's *Equity Jurisprudence*, 1843, Parsons' *Law of Contracts* (2v.), Wharton's *Criminal Law*, Redfield's *Law of Railways*, and Stephen's *Pleading*. In the Orendorff Collection were volume three of Barbour and Herrington's *Equity Digest*, Biddle and McMurtrie's *Index to English Common Law* (2v.), Taylor on *Poisons*, Barbour's *Equity Digest*, volume three of Curtis' *U. S. Digest*, 1846, Chitty and Temple's *Law of Carriers*, Angell and Ames on *Corporations*, and volume one of the *U. S. Digest* for 1847. The copy of Angell on *Limitations* sold on January 29, 1929, for \$775. This price, however, included a document in Lincoln's own hand.

There were other law books not mentioned by Hill, the location of some of which is known. Someone should make a careful census of the present whereabouts of all known Lincoln law books. I give here only a few facts which have been hastily gathered. Charles W. McLellan's collection of Lincolniana was purchased by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and presented to Brown University. It contained two law books, Gilman's *Digest of the Decisions of the Supreme Courts of Indiana and Illinois*, 1844, in which Lincoln wrote the firm name "Lincoln and Herndon"; and the *Illinois House Journal*, 1834, which contains Lincoln's autograph. The Orendorff collection passed into the possession of H. E. Barker of Springfield, Illinois, and from him to Duncan McDonald. Dr. William E. Barton secured them from McDonald in 1926, and these books now form the Lincoln Library in the University of Chicago. There are sixty-eight law books in the collection. Eight of the volumes, namely the *U. S. Statutes at Large*, 1789-1845, bear the inscription "A. Lincoln to W. H. Herndon," written in Herndon's hand. All of the other volumes have Herndon's signature, and doubtless were part of the law library of the firm of Lincoln and Herndon.

Another place where one may see law books which were in the Lincoln-Herndon office is the Pennsylvania Historical Society. There are twenty-five volumes and the original bookcase in which they were shelved. A separate article might well be written with Lincoln's law books as a subject. I leave it dangling in the air for someone, who has more time than I have had, to rescue and write about more in detail.

Description of individual law books of association interest could go on indefinitely. For example, we have in the Yale Law Library, among others, books bearing the autographs of Lord Stowell, Sugden, Samuel Warren, (author of *Ten Thousand a Year*), John Westlake (international law), Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth, James Kent, William M. Evarts, David Dudley Field, Caleb Cushing, Daniel Webster, James C. Carter, Richard Henry Dana, Charles O'Connor, William H. Taft, Richard Olney, Theophilus Parsons, Francis Rawle, and Roger Sherman, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and of the United States Constitution.

We should, I think, prize not alone the books of deceased persons. What could be a pleasanter possession than the Northwestern University Law School's copy of Karl von Amira's *Grundriss des germanischen Rechts*, 1901, which bears the inscription, "To J. H. Wigmore, most patient of Deans, from Roscoe Pound, most impatient of instructors, 16 June, 1909."

Every law library has copies of books by men not so generally known as the above, but who still are of great importance in the history of the library or of the institution with which it is connected. These are the local gods. The Yale Law Library has a goodly number of books owned by such men, in addition to those in the Founders' Collection, already mentioned. They are former professors, alumni, and benefactors, a few of whose names are Simeon E. Baldwin, William C. Robinson, Thomas Burr Osborne, Francis Wayland, Theodore D. Woolsey, Theodore W. Dwight, William K. Townsend, Alphonso Taft, Daniel Lord, John W. Sterling, Cyrus Northrop, and Isaac H. Townsend. We have the latter's copy of Swift's *Digest*, 1822-23, interleaved and annotated, which he used while a teacher in the School from 1842 to 1847. A group of books of special interest is the *Law Faculty Collection*, made up of books written by present and former members of the teaching staff. Many of these copies are autographed.

A subject of some professional interest to libraries is the discovery, recording and preserving of books of association value. In the Yale Law Library, through the trial and error process, we finally have established a policy and a method. All books catalogued are examined to discover autographs, bookplates, and markings which indicate former ownership. Cards headed by the names of these owners are filed in our autograph card list, which is kept in the Catalogue Department. The books are classed regardless of their sentimental interest, the less valuable going on the regular shelves, the rare books in the Treasure Room, and others in the special collections, such as the Blackstone Collection, to which they belong. Call numbers on the "autograph cards" enable us to find the books when they are sought as memorabilia rather than for ordinary use.

Recently we have found it helpful to establish a special class which is devoted to books which we keep solely because of their "association" value. The books in it are all duplicates of those in the regular collection. Suppose, for example, we receive a gift of miscellaneous volumes, all of which turn out to be duplicates. One of the books happens to bear the autograph of some well-known lawyer, or of a revered alumnus of the school. The book is not a rare book, and we already have a better copy. We do not need it for use, and we neither wish to add it to the regular collection as a second copy, nor to discard it. Such a book goes in our Association Books class, which has a special symbol and for which a call number can be made. Thus we protect ourselves from disposing of books which may later be thought of value, and at the same time we avoid congesting our regular shelves. An incidental advantage is that we have on hand a second copy available for use in case of need. Our consciences are clearer if we keep them, and if we do so we must provide a place for them.

These few comments must serve to introduce a subject which has grown in interest to me as I have leisurely pursued it. It would be gratifying if law librarians, through the pages of the LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL, would share with us all the pleasure which they have in "association" copies of books in their own libraries. Communications concerning them need not be lengthy, and might very well be sent in as the autographs come to light in the course of daily work. Thus,

eventually, in our own Journal, there would exist the means of compiling a census of such books in American law libraries. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT HOLLAND: Professor Hicks, we have all enjoyed your inspiring address. We shall now have a series of committee reports, the first of which is the Committee on Index to Legal Periodicals. I recognize Mr. Franklin O. Poole, the Chairman of that Committee, to present the report.

Report of the Committee on Index to Legal Periodicals

The fiscal year of the Index ends on September 30th. On October 1, 1936, there was a balance on hand to the credit of the Association of \$3975.87. There will have to be a deduction for transfer to the LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL of a certain amount. The balance will be needed to defray the expenses of the coming three-year cumulated bound volume.

Since the close of the fiscal year above referred to, the amount received from subscriptions and advertising has shown a gratifying increase. There is every indication that it was wise to undertake more frequent issuance of the Index as set forth below in the report from our editor, Professor James. If the change to be inaugurated meets with the approval of subscribers, it may be possible further to increase the frequency of issue to ten numbers a year. Professor James makes the following statement:

"The INDEX TO LEGAL PERIODICALS began with the January number a new scheme of publication. It is now being published six times a year instead of four and cumulations have been increased.

"Under the new scheme the volume will begin with the September number instead of the October number, as it formerly did. The schedule of publication for 1937-1938 will be as follows: The September, 1937, number will cover the months of July and August. The November number will be a cumulated number covering July, August, September and October. The January, 1938, number will cumulate the previous six months, July, August, September, October; November and December. The March, 1938, number will cover only January and February, 1938. The May, 1938, number will cumulate January, February, March and April. The July, 1938, number will be a cumulation of the previous twelve months.

"The above schedule will be followed, except in the years when the three-year cumulation is to appear. In that year, the May number will include only March and April, and the July number only May and June. As a three-year cumulated number is to appear this year, the schedule of publication will be modified in the way just mentioned. The May number will include March and April and the July number May and June.

"It is believed that this will prove to be a great improvement over the former method of publication and that the Index will be enabled thereby to serve the needs of its subscribers in the future much better than it has in the past.

"The number of periodicals indexed during the past year is the same as it was the previous year, 125. Several new periodicals have been included, but others